

SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1A

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 18 May 1953

SUBJECT Grotewohl's Absence from KPD Celebration

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

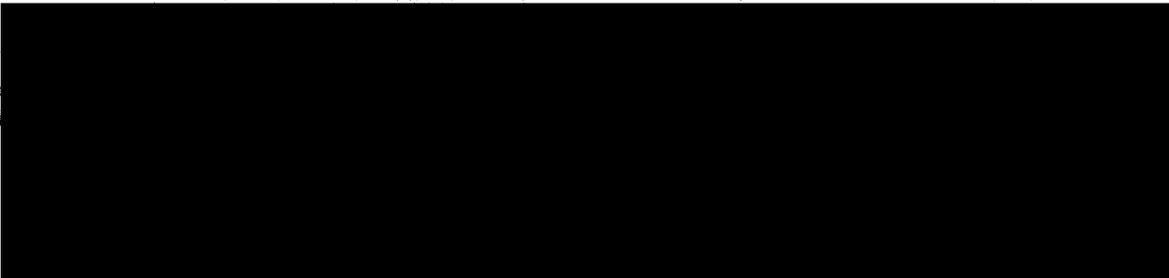
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NO. OF ENCLS. LISTED BELOW:

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. Otto Grotewohl was not invited to the twentieth anniversary celebration at which the Central Committee of the KPD commemorated the last session attended by the Communist leader Ernst Thaelmann. As the session was in progress, however, Grotewohl appeared, to the surprise of members of the Central Committee already at the session. The room in which the session took place was decorated with pictures of Stalin, Thaelmann, Pieck, and Ulbricht; no picture of Grotewohl was in evidence.
2. It is alleged that the official explanation for the absence of Grotewohl and pictures of him at the session was that only members of the former KPD were to be present at the meeting. Actually, however, the entire Central Committee of the SED with the exception of Grotewohl had been invited to the session; of those invited, two were former members of the SPD.
3. Semenov, along with two unidentified political officers of the Soviet Control Commission, attended the session.
4. Ulbricht's main speech (Hauptreferat) at the meeting - the speech was not published - treated the theme "Social Democracy - the Most Dangerous Enemy in our Ranks".

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